

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-5 and 7-11 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended.

2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5 and 7-11 are not anticipated by Fujita (US 6,115,886).

Fujita fails to disclose a hinge comprising a shaft part and a housing part, the shaft part being a one piece member having a first portion carrying a bearing surface, and a second portion extending radially beyond the bearing surface, as recited by claims 1 and 10.

Fujita discloses a hinge that includes a slide cam 8, slidably mounted on a shaft 1, that engages another cam 6. As the hinge rotates cam members on both cams engage, causing slide cam 8 to slide axially with respect to shaft 1. Fujita does not disclose a shaft part being a one piece member having two portions. In fact, if the shaft and slide cam of Fujita were formed as one piece, the hinge would be rendered non-operational because when the cam surfaces engaged, slide cam 8 would no longer slide, preventing rotation of the hinge. Therefore, the components of Fujita's hinge must be constructed as individual pieces and cannot be formed as a one piece member.


At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 10 are patentable over Fujita. Claims 2-5, 7-9, and 11 depend from claims 1 or 10 and therefore are also patentable over Fujita.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are

clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 16-1350 for the amount of \$420.00 for a 2 month extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,


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13 April 2004
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to 703-305-3597 on the date indicated below, addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450

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